



Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Request for Proposals for Coastal Research Grant

Request for Proposals

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Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

I. INTRODUCTION and PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Purpose of Solicitation:

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is announcing the availability grant funding for projects that help fulfill the DNERR Research Goal “To further the understanding of historic and current conditions and processes of the estuary to improve science-based decision making for proper management of the State’s estuarine resources”. This RFP will support the understanding of the impacts of sea level rise on the groundwater resources

Project Description:

Evaluating Impacts of Sea Level Rise on Groundwater Resources

Based on the information in IPCC (2007) and CCSP (2009) and the recommendations and guidelines of federal agencies, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control have adopted sea-level rise estimates of 0.5, 1.0, and 1.5 meters in Delaware by the year 2100 as values to use for planning purposes. These values represent the minimum, intermediate, and maximum rates expected based on the compilation of currently available information. Very little information is available on how these projected rates will impact the groundwater resources of the state. Two critical areas of concern are the depth to surficial aquifer, which will impact stream flow and drainage capabilities and movement of the saltwater interface inward from the estuary. To better understand these consequences of sea level rise the DNERR is requiring the following:

1. Development of a generalized numeric model of groundwater movement along coastal Delaware that is able to accurately predict current and future conditions based on 3 sea level rise scenarios.
2. Inventory of critical information required for input into the model to accurately characterize the parameters influencing the aquifer.
3. A sensitivity analysis of the input parameters to determine the individual impacts on groundwater hydrology.
4. The ability to refine the generalized numeric model to a finer resolution, typical of an individual watershed and application of this refinement on the St. Jones Watershed, Dover, DE.
5. Final report that includes analysis of groundwater conditions and salinity interface of present conditions and the three sea level rise scenarios. Report shall include maps, methodology, and sensitivity analysis. The report will also include methodology and maps for refined analysis of St. Jones Watershed. Finally the report shall include any known data gaps and future needs.

Important Dates and Grant Schedule:

January 18, 2013	Proposals due to Delaware Coastal Programs office no later than 3:00 pm . <i>Applications received after that time will not be reviewed.</i>
On or before February 1, 2013	Grant awards announced and recipients notified
March 15, 2014	Project completion deadline

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicant Requirements:

Applicants may be any academic institution or not-for-profit organization working at the local level within the State of Delaware.

Award Information:

Funding for the project receiving a grant award will not exceed \$50,000. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is providing financial support for projects through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The award recipient is required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

Matching Requirements:

Funding received under this grant program must be matched dollar for dollar (a 50:50 cost share ratio) by non-federal, state, or local cash or in-kind services. For example, if \$15,000 in federal funds is requested, \$15,000 in state, local, or some other non-federal funds must be shown as match. A variety of expenses can be considered as match including in-kind services, waiving of graduate student tuition and or fees, student advisor time, volunteer hours, non-federal state or local cash. Deferral of overhead cannot be used as match. For additional information please contact the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Office at (302) 739-3436

Ineligible costs:

Funds may not be used for construction costs, scholarships to individuals, deficit reduction activities, projects that have already been completed, or for those activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by state or federal law.

Project Duration:

Work conducted for the project is to be complete by March 15, 2014. Award recipients will be required to submit semi-annual status reports and will be notified of specific reporting requirements in the grant award agreement.

III. HOW TO APPLY

Submission of Proposals:

One (1) signed original **AND** one (1) electronic copy of the proposal and any supporting materials must be submitted to Delaware Coastal Programs Office at the following address **no later than 3:00 pm, January 18, 2012.**

ATTN: DNERR Grant Application

Patricia Hoffman
Delaware Coastal Programs
Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
5 E. Reed Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901

Grant Application:

Grant applicants must contain the following information to be considered a complete application:

Cover Page: The cover page should include the proposal title, Principal Investigator(s) including contact information, Beginning/completion date of project, requested amount of funding, technical and administrative contacts. This page should include the signature of the responsible party submitting the proposal.

Abstract: Include a short abstract of the project suitable for public distribution and federal grant reports. (1- 2 paragraphs)

Scope of Work: This section should concisely describe the outcomes of the proposal. It should describe in detail the methods and analyses that will be performed. All results must be statistically valid and defensible. (1-2 pages)

Time Schedule and Benchmarks: This section should break down the Scope of Work into tasks with target dates for completion of each task. It should list target milestones, and timelines. This information will also be used to develop payment schedule. (1 page)

Project Budget: This section should provide a detailed budget description and a brief narrative justification of the budget. It should include the amount requested and itemize all expenditures such as personnel, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual costs, indirect costs, and non-federal match sources and amounts. (1 page)

CV: Short (1-2 page) CV of all investigators listed on the proposal

Any project not containing the information outlined above may be disqualified.

IV. SELECTION PROCESS

Each project proposal will receive an initial screening by the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve to ensure the application meets basic eligibility criteria. A committee of resource experts will then review and rank the eligible proposals and will make recommendations for funding based upon those rankings.

Proposal Review and Ranking Criteria:

Technical merit (60%)

- Project will deliver tangible, defensible result
- Proposed outcomes meet the intent of the RFP
- Methods and analyses described are appropriate to meet the goal of the RFP

Cost effectiveness and budget detail (20%)

- Detailed budget
- Properly identified match
- Overall cost effectiveness

Investigator(s) Qualifications (20%)

- Investigator(s) have the knowledge and experience to successfully complete the project

V. GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Award recipients will be required to submit semi-annual status reports and will be notified of specific reporting requirements in the grant award agreement. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is providing financial support for projects through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All award recipients are required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further details regarding the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Research Grant Program applicants may contact:

Robert Scarborough, Ph.D.
DNERR Research Coordinator
Bob.Scarborough@state.de.us
(302) 739-9283

or

Kimberly Cole
DNERR Manager
Kimberly.Cole@state.de.us
(302) 739-3436

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control solicits and encourages Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) in all service contracts and is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and diversity of its workforce.